

REMARKS

Please reconsider this application in view of the above amendments and the following remarks.

- Claims 139-154 are pending.
- Claims 139-154 are rejected.
- Claim 139 is amended.

35 U.S.C. § 102(b) Rejections

The Examiner has rejected claims 139-142 and 144-150 under 35 U.S.C. Section 102(b) as being anticipated by Sahatjian et al. (U.S. Patent No. 5,674,192)

Claim 139 recites “wherein the sheath material has an oxygen transmission rate of not more than 200 cc/100 in², for 1 mil per 24 hours at 73°F 75% relative humidity and 1 atmosphere, and wherein the sheath material has a water vapor transmission rate of not more than 20 gm/100 in² for 1 mil per 24 hrs. 100°F 90% relative humidity and 1 atm.” Sahatjian et al. does not teach or suggest the above-mentioned claim limitation. Thus, claim 139 is patentably allowable over Sahatjian et al. Claims 140-142 and 144-150 depend from claim 139 and are allowable for at least the same reason that claim 139 is allowable. Applicant respectfully requests removal of the rejection of claims 139-142 and 144-150.

35 U.S.C. § 103(b) Rejections

The Examiner has rejected claims 143, 151-154 under 35 U.S.C. Section 103(a) as obvious over Sahatjian et al.

Application No. 09/406,473

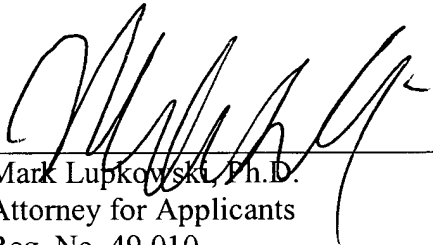
Claims 143 and 151-154 depend from claim 139 and are allowable for at least the same reason that claim 139 is allowable. Applicant respectfully requests removal of the obviousness rejection of claims 143 and 151-154.

Since all claims are in a condition for allowance, please issue a Notice of Allowability so stating. If I can be of any help, please contact me.

Respectfully submitted,

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